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The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

Department of State Police

Division of Investigative Services
Norfolk County State Police Detective Unit
45 Shawmut Road, Canton, MA 02021

February 11, 2022



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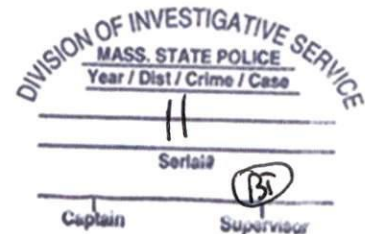
TO: Detective Lieutenant Brian Tully, #3520

FROM: Sergeant Yuriy Bukhenik, #3543

SUBJECT: Brian Higgins (DOB (c)) at (f) RE:
O'Keefe MV Homicide

Case: 2022-112-33

1. On February 3, 2022, at approximately 3:45PM, Tpr. Proctor and I travelled to (f) for a prescheduled interview with Brian Higgins (DOB (c)). Through our investigation into the death of John O'Keefe, Brian had been identified as a witness present with the group of friends at Waterfall Bar and Grill on January 28, 2022. Brian also was one of the friends invited back to 34 Fairview Rd. in Canton following the bar closing for the night and was a witness to events inside the home. The following is a summary of information requested and provided by Brian during that interview with Tpr. Proctor and me in the presence of his attorney Michael Donatelle.



2. Brian began by saying that he met John O'Keefe and Karen at the same time approximately one year ago at either the Waterfall or the Hillside Pub. Prior to January 28th, Brian last hung out with John and Karen during the last New England Patriots game at John's house on Meadows Ave. in Canton. John had invited Brian to watch the previous few games but Brian had been declining the invitations and not visiting the home.

3. On January 28, 2022, Brian told us he was coming back from NYC with his friend Brian Albert, where the two of them attended a funeral. Brian told us that the two returned back to Massachusetts earlier than planned in order to beat the poor weather moving into the area. Once back in Canton Brian met his friend Brian Albert and their group of friends who were already at the Waterfall Bar at approximately 10:00 PM. Brian described the atmosphere at Waterfall as friendly, jovial with a live band playing. The group was occupying the long high-top table closest to the bar and near where the band was set up.

4. Brian stated he remembered when John and Karen walked into the bar together and Karen opened her coat and placed a glass with a clear liquid in it onto the table. Brian described the drinking glass as being ribbed and consistent with the ones utilized by the CF McCarthy's establishment across the street. Brian told us he remembered John to be wearing a rolled baseball style cap and Karen had black knee-high boots and maybe a white shirt. Brian did not know what Karen was drinking and was not even sure if she finished her brought beverage. At one point after John and Karen's arrival, Brian told us that there was a round of shots brought to the table for members of the group to have. Brian was not sure what anyone was drinking since according to him, he keeps to himself and stays pretty quiet.

5. When asked about the atmosphere and people's behavior and demeanor, Brian described it to be casual with conversations taking place. Everyone was in a good mood, especially Karen and John. Brian added that he had seen John have a few drinks in the past, but this night John was very calm and did not appear intoxicated at all. Brian added that it was a good vibe, no arguments between Karen and John or anyone else and he remembers John smiling throughout the night.

6. Brian went on to say that once the bar was closing, Jen McCabe (Brian Albert's sister in law) invited everyone in their group of friends back to Brian Albert's house. At the time, Brian stated that he only knew that he himself was going back to Brian's home at 34 Fairview Rd., but did not know

who else was coming. Brian stated that he was driving his Jeep that evening, which is equipped with a snow plow. Brian said he was first to arrive back at 34 Fairview Rd. and as a result he cleaned out a space for Brian Albert and his wife Nicole to park the vehicle they were driving in their driveway. Subsequently Brian stated he parked his jeep on the road along the property, closest to the driveway on the left side facing towards Chapman Street. At this time there were no other vehicles in front of his Jeep. Brian stated that once inside the home located at 34 Fairview Rd. he observed Brian and Nicole Albert (Owners), Nicole's sister Jen and her husband Matt McCabe as well as Brian and Nicole's children who were home at the time of everyone's arrival back from Waterfall Bar.

7. Prior to sending John a text message at 12:20 AM "Where are you?" Brian remembers Jen being on the phone with John and giving him directions to the home. Brian described his positioning at the dining room table as having his back to the picture windows and did not observed any activity outside in front of the home. Brian further confirmed that neither John nor Karen entered the home at any point during the evening. Brian further added that he had no knowledge of any vehicle sitting out in front of the home with headlights on. Tpr. Proctor and I once again confirmed that John O'Keefe never entered the home and that there were no arguments of fights between anyone at the residence.

8. We directed Brian's attention to him leaving the home, to which he stated he walked to his Jeep and did not observe anything unusual or suspicious surrounding the home. Brian went on to say that the forecasted blizzard was moving into the region and that he was concerned about the plow operating properly and did not pay too much attention to the lawn area behind the snowbank. Brian became emotional while sharing with us that he wished he saw John on the ground and in the snow so that he could have provided first aid and possibly have saved his friend's life. Brian confirmed that he did not see John and travelled directly to Canton PD in order to fulfill some administrative obligations. The route of travel Brian stated was up Fairview towards Chapman, left on Chapman, followed by left on Washington towards Canton PD.

9. At this time the tone of conversation changed and Brian stated that he wanted to disclose some information which he believed would have surfaced during our investigation but he wanted to ensure to share with us at this time. Brian stated that he had taken the liberty and extracted text message conversations between his phone and John O'Keefe as well as his phone and Karen Read. Brian further added that he would explain the reasoning behind these actions as he explains some of

the events that had transpired between the three of them. Tpr. Proctor has the complete digital copy of the aforementioned data from Brian's device which he voluntarily provided to us.

10. On approximately January 12, 2022 Brian recalled getting a text message from an unknown number to him. The individual contacting Brian turned out to be Karen Read. The two began friendly text message communication and eventually both John and Karen invited Brian over for the last New England Patriots game of the season on January 15, 2022. Brian recalled arriving late into the second half and joined John, Karen, and a few other friends at John's home. Brian stated he walked into the home using the front door. After an evening of drinking Brian stated he was leaving the home and attempted to walk out the same way he arrived, when Karen suggested that Brian leave through the downstairs garage. According to Brian, Karen offered to show Brian the way and walk him out. While walking through the garage, Brian stated Karen had made an advance on him and surprised him with a kiss on the lips.

11. Brian stated he was very shocked by Karen's actions and confused by the entire situation since he was assuming that Karen was in a loving relationship. The chain of events lead to Karen and Brian further communicating over text message. One of the days that followed, Karen invited Brian over to her home in Mansfield. Brian claims he never took the trip and was simply trying to figure out Karen's goals and end result. At some point during their text exchange Karen eluded to an event over NYE where she caught John kissing another woman in the hotel lobby bar where they stayed to celebrate NYE.

12. Few days later Karen was planning a trip to Boston with a friend. Brian stated that on her way back from the city, Brian invited Karen over to his home in West Roxbury in order to discuss their future and get a better understanding on what exactly Karen wanted from their friendship. Brian stated Karen came over and the two talked for a period of time but never engaged in any intimate activity. I followed up by confirming that Brian never had sexual relations with Karen, John, or the two of them together. Brian confirmed same and added that there was only that one kiss between him and Karen the night he was walking out of the garage.

13. Brian further assured me that he did not have any relations with anyone else at Waterfall the night of January 28th and to the best of his knowledge Karen never did either. Brian went on to say

that the next time he and Karen texted was when she reached out on January 29, 2022 and stated “John Died” at 11:54 AM.

14. At this point I advised Brian that it is imperative that all of the data which he is providing is accurate and not altered in any way. I further told Brian that we have both John’s and Karen’s devices and would be corroborating his provided data. Brian understood the magnitude of his actions and assured me that all the data is complete and accurate. Without having additional information to provide, Tpr. Proctor collected Brian’s printed text message conversations with both John and Karen which he printed from the phone extraction he performed on his device. Additionally, Tpr. Proctor collected the discs containing the digital phone data of the text message conversations and we both thanked him for his cooperation as well as his and Attorney Donatelle’s time prior to leaving.

Respectfully Submitted,

Sgt. Yuriy Bukhenik #3543

Sergeant Yuriy Bukhenik, #3543
Massachusetts State Police
Norfolk District Attorney’s Office